

SCHNEIDER: CITY OF DRAKE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL GRANT

Drake, N.D., March 25, 2010 — USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today announced the \$185,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) funding of a new community owned grocery store in Drake, North Dakota. USDA Rural Development partnered with the city of Drake, local leaders and the Minot Area Development Corporation to build the 4,000 square foot store after the old store was lost to a fire.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at D&M Family Market in Drake. (L-R) Jasper Schneider, Rural Development State Director; Diane Kolschefskey, D&M Family Market; Dave Rosel, Mayor of Drake; Mike Geyer, R&K Contractors; Bill Kuntz, United Community Bank; and Wayne Whitty, Architect, Anderson, Wade and Whitty.

"Today is a great example of a community banding together to pick up the pieces after tragedy strikes," State Director Jasper Schneider said. "Having access to local services is critical to the long term success of a rural community and Rural Development is pleased to partner with the city of Drake on the opening of their new service store."

During a major fire on Drake's Main Street in 2008, significant fire damage to the town's only

grocery store caused it to close. The store supplied groceries, staples and convenience items to people in a 35 mile radius. Its closing was a major loss to Drake's Main Street and the surrounding community.

After a public hearing on what to do about the loss of the town's only grocery store, it was unanimous that the community wanted a grocery store in their town. Drake City Mayor Dave Rosel got the ball rolling and that is when he turned to USDA Rural Development for help.

"All development has to start locally and thanks to local leaders and partners, they had the vision to contact our office and raise the necessary funds to move this project forward," continued Schneider.

The \$185,000 grant from Rural Development, along with funding from the city for \$182,000, a donation for \$25,000 from D&M Family Market, and \$10,000 from the Minot Area Development Corporation Magic Fund, was used to construct a brand new 4,000 square foot city-owned building which provides new quarters for D&M Family Market.



Check presentation to the city of Drake for an \$185,000 grant. (L-R) Myron Bruner, Council Member; Dave Rosel, Mayor of Drake; Jasper Schneider, Rural Development State Director; Alisa Dahl, Rural Development Specialist; Dale Van Eckhout, Rural Development Business and Community Program Director; and Bill Kuntz, United Community Bank.

"Our community was very fortunate to receive the grant from Rural Development," Drake City Mayor Dave Rosel said. "Without the help from all the participants, we would not be holding this ribbon cutting ceremony today."

The funds are being provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program, which finances development of small and emerging rural businesses. The grants may be used for project planning, land acquisition and development, transportation and infrastructure improvements; renovation or construction, equipment purchases, establishment of working capital or revolving loan funds, adult job training and technical assistance.

In Fiscal Year 2009, USDA Rural Development provided \$56.4 million in housing programs, \$79.7 million in business and community programs, and \$647.1 million in electric programs to North Dakota citizens.

Contact Information:

USDA Rural Development has seven offices across North Dakota serving 641,000 North Dakotans. Office locations include a State Office in Bismarck, along with area offices in Dickinson, Minot, Valley City, and Devils Lake, and two satellite offices in Bismarck and Williston.

Further information on rural programs is available at any local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

USDA Rural Development administers and manages more than 40 housing, business, and community infrastructure and facilities programs. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$130 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

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